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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/510,262

10/05/2004

Ronaldus Maria Aarts

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10/28/2008

PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS

P.O. BOX 3001

BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY 10510

EXAMINER

BAYOU, YONAS A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2434

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

10/28/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/510,262	Applicant(s) AARTS ET AL.	
	Examiner YONAS BAYOU	Art Unit 2434	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 September 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 4-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 4-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10/05/2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to applicant's response filed on 09/19/2008.
2. Claims 1-2 and 4-10 are pending.
3. Claims 1 and 10 are amended.
4. Claim 3 is canceled.
5. Applicant's arguments have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.
6. When responding to the Office action, Applicant is advised to clearly point out the patentable novelty the claims present in view of the state of the art disclosed by the reference(s) cited or the objection made. A showing of how the amendments avoid such references or objections must also be present. See 37 C.F.R. 1.111(c).

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 09/19/2008 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant, on page 5, paragraph 5, of the remarks, argues in the method of claims 1, 5 and 10, “Lambrecht fails to teach a method, wherein the listener parameters in the set of head related transfer functions have been chosen between a number of sets of listener parameters each being specific for said listener.”

Examiner respectfully disagrees and asserts that Lambrecht discloses the invention contemplates an interactive method of selecting the best fit HRTF. A computer, or other device, starts with a generalized HRTF or one of a set of predetermined lesser-generalized HRTFs. The computer outputs audio signals that simulate sound at one or more positions using the generalized HRTF [2:23-34]. Lambrecht further discloses that a head related transfer function (HRTF) is used to simulate positional three-dimensional sound. The HRTF accounts for the frequency response, delays and reflections of the human body. [see, for example, abstract; HRTFs corresponding to personalizing could be performed by filtering].

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-2 and 4-10 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-2 and 4-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lambrecht, Patent Number 6,181,800 B1 in view of Thomas et al., Patent Number 7,065,498 B1.

Referring to claims 1 and 10, Lambrecht teaches the HRTF for each individual is unique. The HRTF is affected by the size and shape of the head, the size and shape of the pinnae, the characteristics of the ear canal, and the relationship of the shoulder to the ear. A unique HRTF can be calculated for each individual by performing detailed and time consuming measurements of the head, ear and body. The measurements taken for an individual are converted to a transfer function usable by a processing device to adjust the characteristics of audio signal outputs to individual speakers to simulate positional three-dimensional sound [column 1, lines 24-35 which is corresponding to allowing access of the personalized audio signal to said listener]. Lambrecht further teaches a method, wherein the listener parameters in the set of head related transfer functions have been chosen between a number of sets of listener

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parameters each being specific for said listener **[column 2, lines 23-34;**
selecting the best fit HRTF corresponding to choosing the listener parameters].
Lambrecht does not appear to explicitly teach a method for a service provider to
distribute an audio signal to a listener. However Thomas teaches the client
establishes communication with the server to identify the customer. To do this,
the customer computer system initiates communication with the merchant
computer system through communication link using any access protocol, for
example transmission control protocol/internet protocol (TCP/IP) **[column 5,**
lines 15-20; the customer computer system initiates communication with the
merchant computer system corresponding to a service provider distributing an
audio signal to a listener]. Thomas and Lambrecht are analogous art because
both teach HRTFs or filtering with HRTF's.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary
skill in the art to modify the method of Lambrecht to include the client establishes
communication with the server of Thomas because under control of the dialogue
unit, the server then transmits to the client information on a range of video and/or
audio products available for purchase, for example by reading header segments
of a group of the product files, a variety of techniques collectively known as
digital watermarking has been developed to address the issue of unauthorized or
illegal copying of digital video and audio products. Some such techniques result
in a copied product being unviewable or inaudible. Other techniques block the
copying of a watermarked original by open-circuiting the input stage of a video
recorder (VCR) or other recording device when the correct watermark is not

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detected. Other techniques encode the source purchaser, or other information, to enable identification and tracking of unauthorized copies [1:12-22], please see KSR International Co. v. Teleflex Inc., 550 U.S., 82 USPQ2d 1385 (2007) for further interpretation.

Referring to claim 2, Lambrecht teaches a method for a service provider to distribute an audio signal to a listener, wherein the personalization is performed before distributing said audio signal to said listener **[column 1, lines 52-53; column 2, lines 42-54 and fig. 1 individualized corresponding to personalization]**.

Referring to claim 4, Lambrecht teaches a method for a service provider to distribute an audio signal to a listener, wherein the head related transfer functions have been modified in an substantially inaudible way, where said modification is performed by embedding information into the set of head related transfer functions before filtering the audio signal **[column 2, lines 28-38; adjusting the HRTF is repeated/modified]**.

Referring to claims 5, 6, 8, and 9, Lambrecht teaches a method for a service provider to distribute an audio signal to a listener, wherein the audio impression of the audio signal has been changed according to first listener parameters being specific for a specific listener, comprising the steps of:

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detecting said first listener parameters used for changing the audio impression of said audio signal **[column 5, lines 55-58 and fig. 2]**; the positional error corresponding to first listener parameters],

comparing said detected first listener parameters with second listener parameters **[column 5, lines 58-63 and fig. 2]** and

playing back said changed audio signal if said detected first listener parameters identify a listener being identical to the listener identified by said second listener parameters **[column 5, lines 61-63 and fig. 1]**; an acceptable range of error stored in the computer 102 corresponding to second listener parameters].

Referring to claim 7, Lambrecht teaches a method for a service provider to distribute an audio signal to a listener, wherein first and second listener parameters are parameters to be used in a set of head related transfer functions, and wherein the audio signal has been changed by filtering it using the set of head related transfer functions having listener parameters being specific for a specific listener **[column 1, lines 12-35]**; the frequency, delays and position of the sound are listener parameters].

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to YONAS BAYOU whose telephone number is (571)272-7610. The examiner can normally be reached on m-f,7:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kambiz Zand can be reached on 571-272-3811. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Yonas Bayou/

Examiner, Art Unit 2434

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10/25/2008

/Kambiz Zand/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2434